

(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 1 217 565 A3

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
12.11.2003 Bulletin 2003/46

(51) Int Cl. 7: G06F 17/60, H04N 7/173,
H04B 7/185, H04L 12/56,
H04L 29/06

(43) Date of publication A2:
26.06.2002 Bulletin 2002/26

(21) Application number: 01310260.3

(22) Date of filing: 07.12.2001

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR

Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 15.12.2000 US 738390

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(54) Computer implemented method and system for negotiating broadcast of a programme content

(57) A method and system for booking and scheduling requests for broadcast of programmes by a station in which a request has at least a programme time duration and required minimum broadcast bandwidth and the station has a fixed bandwidth broadcast capability. A schedule is maintained of programmes that have been booked for broadcast, each booked programme having a date of broadcast, time for broadcast, time duration and broadcast bandwidth and the request is checked against the schedule of the booked programmes for availability of the requested minimum bandwidth for the time duration of the request. The request also can contain a specified time and date for the broadcast. If the request can be satisfied a notice of acceptance is sent and if it cannot, advice is given of this and a listing of alternate times is provided at which the request can be satisfied.

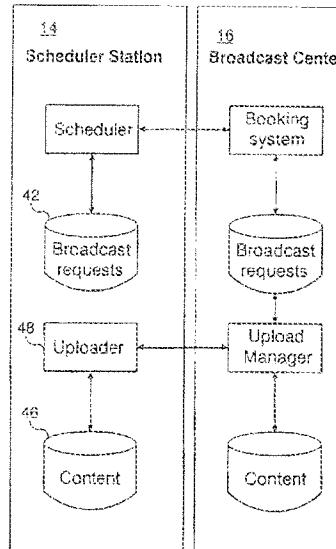


Figure 7



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Application Number
EP 01 31 0260

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<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">H04N H04B G06F H04L</td> </tr> </table>				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)		H04N H04B G06F H04L	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)							
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>							
Place of search:	Date of completion of the search	Examiner					
MUNICH	23 September 2003	Güttlich, J					
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS							
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background D : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					

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